

Waccamaw

National Wildlife Refuge

photo: Wendell Metzger



photo: Craig Sasser



photo: USFWS



photo: USFWS



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Refuge Facts

- Established: 1997.
- Approved acreage: 49,732 (present acreage: 219).
- Refuge headquarters are presently at Cape Romain in Awendaw, South Carolina.
- Location of Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge includes portions of Georgetown, Horry and Marion counties along the Great and Little Pee Dee rivers and the Waccamaw River.

Natural History

- Refuge includes portions of the Great Pee Dee, Little Pee Dee and Waccamaw rivers.
- Habitats range from black water forested wetlands to tidal forested and emergent wetlands which were once the mainstay of the lucrative Georgetown rice culture.
- These river systems and associated wetlands comprise a large portion of the Winyah Bay drainage basin and are an important component of the Winyah Bay ecosystem.
- Large concentrations of wintering waterfowl, wading birds and neo-tropical migratory songbirds utilize the refuge area.
- Northern most nesting area for swallow tailed kites.

Refuge Objectives

- Provide habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, raptors, neo-tropical migratory birds, and resident species.
- Environmental education and interpretation.
- Provide opportunities for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation.

Management Tools

- Habitat management which could include timber management, water management, prescribed burning, removal of noxious non-native species, and protected sanctuary where appropriate.
- Partnerships.
- Environmental education/interpretation.

Public Use Opportunities

Public use opportunities will be developed as lands are acquired.